



H.RES. 891 – CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS OF THE EARTH BY THE LANDSAT SPACECRAFT AND LOOKING FORWARD TO SUSTAINING THE LONGEST UNBROKEN RECORD OF CIVIL EARTH OBSERVATIONS OF THE LAND

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 891 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Mark Udall (D-CO) on December 18, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, but was never considered.

H.Res. 891 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 22, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 891 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Expresses its appreciation to all of the dedicated scientists, engineers, and program personnel who have contributed to the successful development and operation of the Landsat program over the past 35 years;
- Urges the continuation of the Landsat program and data record so as to sustain Landsat's value to scientific research, especially the study of global and climate change, and to the myriad applied uses of the data for societal benefit; and
- Believes that the Nation should continue to support the research, technological improvements, educational outreach, and development of decision making tools required to expand the use of Landsat data separately and as integrated with other Earth observations data.

BACKGROUND

The Landsat was developed and launched by NASA to collect a variety of detailed images of the surface of the Earth to better enable the study of the Earth's environment and surface composition. The original Landsat was launched from a Delta Rocket at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on July 23, 1972. The value and use of the images collected by the original Landsat led to the launching of 5 additional Landsat satellites between 1975 and 1993. Agricultural evaluations, forest management inventories, geological surveys, water resource estimates, and coastal zone appraisals are among the many types of data collected by the Landsat satellites.

The Landsat satellites have provided scientists with millions of global land surface images since 1972. The data collected by the Landsat constitutes the largest collection of images taken of Earth's surface, and is accessed by hundreds of users every year.

STAFF CONTACT

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